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FARM ORGANIZATIONS

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1921

P89-91

STATEMENT BY

Mr. C. H. CHILTON, Managing Editor The County
Agent and Farm Bureau, Chicago, Ill.

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1921

#5351

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

LOUIS T. MCFADDEN, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*.

PORTER H. DALE, Vermont.

EDWARD J. KING, Illinois.

FRANK D. SCOTT, Michigan.

ADOLPHUS P. NELSON, Wisconsin.

JAMES G. STRONG, Kansas.

LEONARD S. ECHOLS, West Virginia.

EDWARD S. BROOKS, Pennsylvania.

WALTER D. LUCE, Massachusetts.

CLARENCE MACGREGOR, New York.

JAMES W. DUNBAR, Indiana.

LESTER D. VOLK, New York.

T. FRANK APPLEBY, New Jersey.

HENRY F. LAWRENCE, Missouri.

E. HART FENN, Connecticut.

OTIS WINGO, Arkansas.

HENRY B. STEAGALL, Alabama.

CHARLES H. BRAND, Georgia.

WILLIAM F. STEVENSON, South Carolina.

EUGENE BLACK, Texas.

T. ALAN GOLDSBOROUGH, Maryland.

PHILIP G. THOMPSON, *Clerk*.

FARM ORGANIZATIONS.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., Friday, August 19, 1921.

The committee met, pursuant to a call of the chairman, at 10 o'clock a. m., Hon. Louis T. McFadden (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen of the committee, the purpose in calling the committee together this morning to hear Mr. C. H. Chilton, the managing editor of the County Agent and Farm Bureau, of Chicago, Mr. Chilton being present in response to a letter I addressed to him on August 3, my letter being as follows:

"The Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives are conducting a series of investigations of the agricultural organizations of the United States. The committee is desirous of having you appear before them at an early date. I shall be pleased if you will advise me when it may be convenient for you to comply with their wishes in this respect."

STATEMENT OF MR. C. H. CHILTON, MANAGING EDITOR THE COUNTY AGENT AND FARM BUREAU, CHICAGO, ILL.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Chilton, for the benefit of the committee, state what your connections are.

Mr. CHILTON. I am at the present time serving in the capacity of managing editor of a publication in Chicago known as the County Agent and Farm Bureau, published at 431 South Dearborn Street.

The CHAIRMAN. Who owns this paper?

Mr. CHILTON. This paper is owned by the Lightner Publishing Corporation.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that an Illinois company?

Mr. CHILTON. It is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware.

The CHAIRMAN. Who are the stockholders of that corporation? Who owns the stock of that company?

Mr. CHILTON. I am one of the owners and Mr. Lightner is one of the owners. Who owns the rest of it. I really don't know.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the capital stock?

Mr. CHILTON. The maximum capitalization stock, when I was last informed, was \$1,000,000.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the amount of the paid-in capital stock?

Mr. CHILTON. I have asked Mr. Lightner that question, but I have not received that information.

The CHAIRMAN. How much of the stock of that company do you own?

Mr. CHILTON. At the present time I have in my possession only \$250 worth of the stock.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you own that stock?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir; I own it. I have paid for it and have it.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that stock worth par?

Mr. CHILTON. I have no idea.

The CHAIRMAN. Then you do not know how much the paid-in capital stock of this company is?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir; I do not.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you know the number of paid subscriptions to the publication?

Mr. CHILTON. To this publication?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. CHILTON. The last figures I had were 310 paid subscriptions on a money basis, and on the basis of contributing articles there were 934. We have a scheme whereby men who consent to contribute articles sometime during the year receive the paper. When that is done, we give such a contributor a subscription for the year.

The CHAIRMAN. What were your connections before you went with the County Agent and Farm Bureau publication?

Mr. CHILTON. Mr. Chairman, how far back do you want me to go?

The CHAIRMAN. Just shortly back.

Mr. CHILTON. In 1912 I graduated from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. In 1913 I was instructor in that institute, and in 1914 I began to serve as county agent in Accomac County, Va. I served in that capacity for a period of four years, at the end of which time I entered the Army. I was in the

Army a year, and when I came out of the Army, I became the editor of a county weekly in Lancaster County, Va., for a year. At the expiration of that time, I went to Chicago as the managing editor of the publication we are discussing at the present time.

The CHAIRMAN. Has the American Farm Bureau Federation any interest in that paper, or in the Lightner Publishing Co.?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir; not to my knowledge.

The CHAIRMAN. Are any of the people connected with the American Farm Bureau Federation contributors in any way whatsoever to the publication, either in the way of articles or in the way of financial support to that paper?

Mr. CHILTON. They send out general publication literature, which, I imagine, goes to a great number of agricultural journals, and we use such material, as a great many other journals do.

The CHAIRMAN. Your circulation is principally among county agents?

Mr. CHILTON. Principally among county agents, and we have also quite a number of farm bureau leaders among our subscribers.

The CHAIRMAN. Can you manage to meet the expenses of your operation on such a small circulation?

Mr. CHILTON. Our advertisers pay our expenses.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Chilton, as I advised you in my letter, this committee is conducting some investigations in regard to agricultural organizations, and my attention has been directed to letters which you sent out on July 30, 1921, in which you referred to hearings being held here by this committee on July 20, 1921, when Mr. Howard, the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation appeared. Do you remember that letter?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. How many letters did you send out?

Mr. CHILTON. I sent a copy of the letter that you have referred to to the members of the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you send the letters to any others?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. For the purpose of getting this letter in the record, I will read it:

[C. H. Chilton, managing editor; formerly county agricultural agent, Accomac, Va.]

COUNTY AGENT FARM BUREAU,
Chicago, Ill., July 30, 1921.

When President Howard, of the American Farm Bureau Federation, was in Washington on July 20, appearing before the House Committee on Banking and Currency, one of the members of this committee made a threat that he would see to it that Government support of the Agricultural Extension Service, through the Smith-Lever fund, would be withdrawn.

I thought it well to call your attention to this matter. Being convinced of your deep interest in the well-balanced agricultural development of our country, it will not be necessary for me to tell you of the great constructive work in rural America now being sponsored by the agricultural extension forces.

We would feel quite honored to have an expression from you on this subject.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

C. H. CHILTON.

Now, who told you of this incident to which you refer here with regard to President Howard?

Mr. CHILTON. In reply to that question, I will read from a pamphlet which came to me from the American Farm Bureau Federation, as follows:

"Mr. Congressman," said President J. R. Howard, to his most persistent heckler on the House Committee on Banking and Currency at the continuation of the farm-organizations hearings in Washington, D. C., on July 20, "if you want to increase the membership of the American Farm Bureau Federation a hundred per cent in a few weeks, go ahead and do what you threaten to do when you propose to take away Smith-Lever funds."

The CHAIRMAN. Is that the basis for this letter of yours?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you have any conversation with Mr. Howard before writing these letters?

Mr. CHILTON. I conferred with Mr. Guard, the publicity director of the American Farm Bureau Federation, by letter.

The CHAIRMAN. What did he say?

Mr. CHILTON. He edits these circular letters.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that a circular that went out?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. From the American Farm Bureau Federation?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Under its direction?

Mr. CHILTON. I imagine so.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the date of that?

Mr. CHILTON. That is dated July 28.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you put that in the record?

Mr. CHILTON. It is at your disposal.

(The matter referred to is as follows:)

[Weekly News Letter No. 30.]

FOURSQUARE TO ALL THE WINDS.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,
Chicago, July 28, 1921.

"Mr. Congressman," said President J. R. Howard to his most persistent heckler on the House Committee on Banking and Currency at the continuation of the farm organization hearings in Washington, D. C., on July 20, "if you want to increase the membership of the American Farm Bureau Federation a hundred per cent in a few weeks, go ahead and do what you threaten to do when you propose to take away Smith-Lever funds. The county farm bureau is organized to aid to the fullest possible extent the work of the county agent. You have no right, persistently, to misrepresent the case and put the cart before the horse. The farmers join the county farm bureau in order to secure the maximum efficiency from the extension work of the Department of Agriculture. Do not forget that where there are strong farm bureaus, the farmers raise enough money to employ and retain highly trained and experienced men as county agents and pay them proper salaries. This enables them to carry out real programs of work adapted to the special agricultural needs of the county.

"Last week two governors came to me and voluntarily paid high tribute to the work of the farm bureau in keeping down dangerous expressions of unrest. They declared the farm bureau to be the great, sober, thoughtful, careful, practical organized force in the country to-day. I declare the farm bureau to be a movement of the farmers themselves for the good of the whole people. Every cent of revenue received by the American Farm Bureau Federation has come from its members, 50 cents a head. We file here a full financial and membership report. The farm bureau is foursquare to all the jealous winds that blow."

The CHAIRMAN. What is Mr. Guard's address?

Mr. CHILTON. No. 58 East Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

The CHAIRMAN. What is his position with the American Farm Bureau Federation?

Mr. CHILTON. He was the director of education and publicity.

The CHAIRMAN. Is he with them now?

Mr. CHILTON. I think he is.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you ever know of any such threat as that being made by any Member of Congress or of this committee, to take away Smith-Lever funds?

Mr. CHILTON. That was the first intimation I had of it, and naturally I wanted to know what was going on. That is the reason why I wrote those letters. I wanted to find out about it, and that was my first information on the subject.

The CHAIRMAN. Can you tell the committee what member of this committee made such a threat?

Mr. CHILTON. I would prefer not to do so; but if you insist upon it I will do so.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee would like to know.

Mr. CHILTON. I understood that it was Mr. Wingo, of Arkansas.

The CHAIRMAN. You understood that he made such a statement to Mr. Howard?

Mr. CHILTON. That this direct statement was made?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. CHILTON. I was given to understand that he intimated it very strongly.

The CHAIRMAN. Who gave you that information?

Mr. CHILTON. Mr. Guard.

The CHAIRMAN. Was Mr. Guard present at the hearing?

Mr. CHILTON. I presume so.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you know whether or not he was present?

Mr. CHILTON. I do not.

Mr. WINGO. Did you say that Mr. Guard was your authority for that statement?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. WINGO. Did you seek to ascertain from me whether or not that charge was true?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

Mr. WINGO. I want to say for your information that any suggestion that I made any such threat is a deliberate lie. Any suggestion that I ever made any such threat or ever intimated any such thing is a deliberate lie.

Mr. CHILTON. I was acting on the word that came from the American Farm Bureau Federation, and I had absolutely no other information. I naturally wanted to investigate it. I have quite a number of letters here, and I will be glad to turn them over to the chairman, if he cares to read them. I have copies of them here.

The CHAIRMAN. I would be glad to see the letters.

Mr. WINGO. You said that you wrote to Congressmen.

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir; Congressmen and Senators.

Mr. WINGO. Did you call it to my attention?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir; because at that time I did not know that you were the man who was said to have made the threat. Since then I found that it was Mr. Wingo.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Wingo asks that I read this letter again. The letter is dated July 21, 1921, and is addressed to Members of Congress, as follows: "When President Howard, of the American Farm Bureau Federation was in Washington on July 20, appearing before the House Committee of Banking and Currency, one of the members of this committee made a threat that he would see to it that the Government support of the Agricultural Extension Service, through the Smith-Lever fund, would be withdrawn.

"I thought it well to call your attention to this matter. Being convinced of your deep interest in the well-balanced agricultural development of our country, it will not be necessary for me to tell you of the great constructive work in rural America now being sponsored by the agricultural extension forces.

"We would feel quite honored to have an expression from you on this subject."

This letter is signed by C. H. Chilton.

Mr. STRONG. Who is he?

The CHAIRMAN. He is the gentleman appearing before the committee. I will state for the benefit of the members of the committee who were not present when he started, that the witness has just stated that he was informed that Mr. Wingo made that threat.

Mr. STRONG. I never heard of it before.

Mr. FENN. Would not the stenographic report of the hearing disclose the facts? Did you not consult that?

Mr. CHILTON. I made every effort I could to find a copy of it before I left Chicago, but I could not get it.

Mr. FENN. I think you could have gotten it from the clerk of the committee.

Mr. STRONG. I never heard of such a thing before.

Mr. CHILTON. I am glad to know that it was not true.

Mr. STRONG. I am not only glad to know that it was not true, but I know that it could not be true. I was very much surprised at the statement, because that farm organization has gotten more from this Congress than they every obtained from any other Congress. I am from an agricultural district, and if that is the kind of cooperation that the Congressmen from agricultural districts are going to get from these periodicals, it seems to me that it will be a mighty poor way to assist in the promotion of agriculture.

Mr. MACGREGOR. He stated that this was sent out by the Farm Bureau Federation, of which Mr. Howard is the head.

Mr. STRONG. But these periodicals should not take that kind of information without further inquiry or investigation as to its correctness.

Mr. MACGREGOR. He probably supposed that it was official information, coming from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Mr. STRONG. That is not official information.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you send this letter to any member of the Banking and Currency Committee?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir; I did not know their names.

Mr. STROM: To whom did you send it?
Mr. CHILTON: To members of the House and Senate Committee on Agriculture.

The CHAIRMAN: How did you get the names of the members of those other committees?

Mr. CHILTON: They receive our publication. I made an effort to get their names and they receive our publication.

Mr. FISK: Do you not have a copy of the Congressional Directory in your office?

Mr. CHILTON: No, sir.

Mr. FISK: I will see that one is sent to you.

Mr. CHILTON: I thank you very much.

Mr. STROM: Did you say to whom you sent this letter?

Mr. CHILTON: I sent a copy of that letter to each member of the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture.

Mr. STROM: What was your purpose in sending that letter?

Mr. CHILTON: To find out what they thought about the agricultural extension work.

Mr. STROM: Why did you not write to the members of this committee to find out what they thought of it?

Mr. CHILTON: I did not know their names.

Mr. STROM: If you had simply addressed your letter to the Committee on Banking and Currency of the House, you would have got an explanation.

The CHAIRMAN: Did you communicate with Mr. Wingo on the subject at all?

Mr. CHILTON: No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: You had been informed that Mr. Wingo made that statement.

Mr. CHILTON: I was writing to my friends.

Mr. STROM: But you were not writing to all your friends, because you have friends on this committee.

Mr. CHILTON: I am very glad to know that.

Mr. STROM: If you had given any attention to the legislation that has been going through the House, you would have known that some of the most important legislation affecting the interests of farmers has been reported from this committee. In view of that fact I am astonished that this kind of information should have been given out before determining whether or not it was well founded.

Mr. MANNING: It does not appear that this man is to blame for that.

Mr. WINGO: The chairman will appreciate the fact that there are other things that might be referred to in this connection, but I do not care to bring them up at this time. In order to get some information, however, I desire to ask the gentleman some questions. I was not fortunate enough to be present when you heard your statement, but, as I understand it, you are editing a paper that is supposed to be published in the interest of agriculture?

Mr. CHILTON: Yes, sir.

Mr. WINGO: Have you kept up with the activities of Congress during the past eight years?

Mr. CHILTON: As best I could.

Mr. WINGO: Have you kept up with the activities of this committee?

Mr. CHILTON: As best I could.

Mr. WINGO: Do you know who made the fight for the present agricultural relief bill in the Federal reserve act?

Mr. CHILTON: No, sir.

Mr. WINGO: Did you read the newspapers at that time?

Mr. CHILTON: When was that?

Mr. WINGO: When the Federal reserve act was being framed. Did you read the Congressional Record at the time the Federal reserve act was being framed?

Mr. CHILTON: I know that Mr. Glass had a great deal to do with the framing of that act.

Mr. WINGO: He was the chairman of the committee. How long since you have been interested in agriculture?

Mr. CHILTON: Since I was five years of age.

Mr. WINGO: Were you interested in the efforts that were being made in the Committee on Banking and Currency to make agricultural paper available for redemption in Federal reserve banks under the Federal reserve act? That was in 1913.

Mr. CHILTON: I did not understand that question.

Mr. WINGO: Were you sufficiently interested in 1913 to follow the efforts that were made in the House to get agricultural paper included in the Federal reserve act as being eligible for redemption at Federal reserve banks?

Mr. CHILTON. In 1913 I was working in an experiment station at the rate of 10 cents an hour, and I did not have much chance to read.

Mr. WINGO. Did you keep up with the activities of those of us who made the fight for the Smith-Lever work?

Mr. CHILTON. Very closely. I was in the county agent work at that time and naturally I did keep up with it.

Mr. WINGO. And yet you never heard of my activities?

Mr. CHILTON. I admit, sir, that I never did.

Mr. WINGO. You never heard of my activities on the Banking and Currency Committee for other agricultural paper or for rural credits?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir; I have not.

Mr. WINGO. You never have?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

Mr. WINGO. And on the statement of a man that I had made a threat like that—without consulting me and without even knowing who the members of the Committee on Banking and Currency were—you sent broadcast such a statement?

Mr. CHILTON. I did not mention your name, sir.

Mr. WINGO. I know that; but was it not unfair to the rest of the committee? I am not complaining myself, because I will take care of myself.

Mr. CHILTON. Well, sir, I naturally wanted information.

Mr. WINGO. Why did you not write to Mr. McFadden, the chairman of the committee that was attacked, and get your information? That was the fair and honorable thing to do, was it not?

Mr. CHILTON. Possibly I made a mistake in not having done that, but I was writing to the men I knew and the men who were getting my paper. I did not know just what was going on down here in Washington, and I feared that the House and Senate were going to take away the funds for the county agents.

Mr. STRONG. But you never undertook to find out the truth?

Mr. CHILTON. I went to my friends to find out.

Mr. STRONG. No; you did not go to the friends of agriculture.

Mr. CHILTON. Then they are in the wrong place if they are not the friends of agriculture.

Mr. WINGO. You have already admitted that you did not know what was going on. Now, the point I want to find out is whether you sent that out of your own volition, with reckless disregard of the rights of the committee.

Mr. CHILTON. What was that, sir?

Mr. WINGO. Or whether you were prompted to do it by somebody else.

Mr. CHILTON. It was of my own volition, sir.

Mr. WINGO. You knew that it reflected on the Banking and Currency Committee, did you not?

Mr. CHILTON. Not necessarily. You have a perfect right to attack any bill that you want to.

Mr. WINGO. You knew that would arouse—

Mr. STRONG (interposing). Whether it is true or not?

Mr. WINGO. Just a moment, Mr. Strong. You knew that would naturally arouse resentment against the Committee on Banking and Currency among those who believe in the Smith-Lever work, did you not?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir. But I did not know whether you believed in the Smith-Lever work or not. If you do, I am glad you do.

Mr. WINGO. You knew that the natural effect of your letters and your statements would be to cause people who believed in the Smith-Lever work to feel unkindly toward the Banking and Currency Committee and feel that that committee was not friendly to the work? You knew that was the natural conclusion to be reached?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. WINGO. And yet you sent it out without trying to ascertain from Mr. McFadden or any other member of the committee whether there was any basis for such a charge?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. WINGO. Is that your idea of journalism? Do you know of any other responsible newspaperman in the United States who would do a thing like that? For your information, I will say that I do not know of any.

Mr. CHILTON. I sought to get information by going to my friends. Every man has the right, as I have, to write to his friends and find out what they believe the charge to be.

Mr. WINGO. But you have no right to send broadcast a false charge against a committee of the House of Representatives without making an effort to ascertain its truth.

Mr. CHILTON. I was trying to do that. I had received information that this was true, and I have statements on printed paper from the American Farm Bureau Federation that it is true. If it is not true, I am very glad to know it; and if it is not true and if you did not make these charges, I will apologize to you.

Mr. FENN. Do you propose to make a retraction in your paper?

Mr. CHILTON. If these statements are proven not to be true, as Mr. Wingo says they are not, I will.

Mr. FENN. You will retract?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. STRONG. That is the manly thing to do.

Mr. BRAND. You say if they are proven not to be true. Do you want anybody besides Mr. Wingo to say they are not true?

Mr. CHILTON. That is all I need, sir, from his standpoint.

Mr. WINGO. I do not feel called on to defend myself to this gentleman at all. I do not feel called on to defend myself to a man who, by his own admissions, has already classed himself in journalism as this man has.

Mr. CHILTON. In what way, sir?

Mr. WINGO. You have just told exactly what you did, and I judge men by their actions and not by their words.

Mr. CHILTON. Do you think I would come here and tell anything else than what I did and not tell the truth about it?

Mr. WINGO. You have shown, by your frank admissions, just what your standard is.

Mr. BLACK. I would like to make this interruption. Did you publish anything about it in your paper?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir. If you gentlemen care to read it, that is a copy of it [indicating].

Mr. WINGO. That paper, marked, was sent into my district.

Mr. MACGREGOR. Why do you not get the fellow who sent that statement into your district?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Wingo has said that marked copies were sent into his district. Did you send those copies into his district?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you furnish clippings from those papers to any one for that purpose?

Mr. CHILTON. Of this August edition?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. CHILTON. The August edition had not left Chicago when I left there. I took the first three copies that left there, and I think Mr. Wingo is mistaken when he says that marked copies of this paper were sent into his district.

Mr. WINGO. Marked copies of some paper were sent into my district. I have not examined this paper.

Mr. CHILTON. You want to be careful about the statements you make as well as myself, sir.

Mr. WINGO. Do you know of that statement having been made by anybody else except you and the man who wrote you that letter?

Mr. CHILTON. How is that?

Mr. WINGO. Do you know of anybody else who made that statement except you and the man who wrote you that letter?

Mr. CHILTON. What statement?

Mr. WINGO. The statement that is in controversy here and the accuracy of which is challenged.

Mr. CHILTON. I do not understand your question.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Chilton wrote a letter to me, and I think Mr. Wingo refers to the statement made by the American Farm Bureau Federation, from which you got your information.

Mr. MACGREGOR. Was it published in any other paper?

Mr. CHILTON. Not that I know of, sir.

Mr. WINGO. I do not know that it was this particular paper and probably it was not, but I was advised that marked copies of an attack on the Banking and Currency Committee were sent into my district. The same statement that is published here or which has been quoted here was published in papers in my district.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you know anything about such a statement?

Mr. CHILTON. What do you mean by such a statement?

The CHAIRMAN. Such a statement as Mr. Wingo has referred to as having been published in his district.

Mr. CHILTON. There are quite a number of magazines, sir, and I imagine that the same pamphlet that came to me from the American Farm Bureau Federation went to a number of others, and probably it was reprinted or probably quoted. That is as far as I can answer that question.

The CHAIRMAN. This false statement has been published in probably half of the agricultural papers of the country, has it not?

Mr. CHILTON. I have no idea in how many, sir.

Mr. WINGO. I would like to make this statement, because I find a member of the committee misunderstood me. I did not undertake to charge what particular magazine or paper was sent into my district, because I have not seen it, although I remember a gentleman showing me a clipping. But I was advised that certain papers of some kind, making a charge against the Banking and Currency Committee, had been sent into my district. I know that the identical language was published in more than one paper, and evidently they must have received the same slip that this gentleman received. I do not want to leave the impression that his paper was sent there and circulated, because I do not know that it was.

The CHAIRMAN. I am not clear as to your purpose in writing to these Members of Congress, although I believe you said it was for the purpose of getting information. I wish you would state just what your purpose was.

Mr. CHILTON. Chicago is some distance from Washington. Naturally I am interested in the Extension Service. I was a county agent for four years. You gentlemen have a right to pass laws and you have a right to take away appropriations as well as to give appropriations, and from the letter that the American Farm Bureau Federation sent to me it appeared that the Smith-Lever fund, the appropriation for the Extension Service, would be discontinued.

The CHAIRMAN. Then it was through the American Farm Bureau Federation that you got that information?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir. Naturally I was very much interested. I knew the members of the Committee on Agriculture in the Senate and House, and when a man is in trouble he goes to his friends. That is why I wrote the letters to the members of the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture. I wanted to find out just what was the attitude here at Washington on this one subject, and that explains to you and to my friend, Mr. Wingo, why I wrote those letters.

The CHAIRMAN. Before you wrote those letters you said you had an interview with a representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation?

Mr. CHILTON. I wrote a letter and sent it to Mr. Guard.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you a copy of that letter?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir; I have not.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you furnish a copy of that letter?

Mr. CHILTON. I think I can find a copy of it in my office in Chicago, but I could not say positively.

The CHAIRMAN. If Mr. Guard has a copy of the letter will you please put it in the record?

Mr. CHILTON. That is Mr. Guard's property, and you would have to ask him for that.

The CHAIRMAN. You must have a copy.

Mr. CHILTON. I would say that I think I can find one; and if I can, sir, I can assure you on honor that I will send it to you.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you in any way connected with the American Farm Bureau Federation?

Mr. CHILTON. Not directly; no, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Have they ever paid you any salary or any compensation of any kind for any services you have rendered?

Mr. CHILTON. Absolutely none.

The CHAIRMAN. When Mr. Howard was before this committee his attention was called to the January number of your publication, in which the New Year's message to the county agents was published. You recollect that article, do you?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Howard stated that you wrote that article, but he did not suppose you were going to make it as strong as you made it. Will you tell the committee the circumstances surrounding the writing of that article?

Mr. CHILTON. Mr. Guard, the publicity man, wrote the article. I suggested the subject, and he wrote the article.

The CHAIRMAN. You suggested the subject?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. BRAND. Did you tell him what to write?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir; not in detail. I suggested the subject.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think that is a correct statement?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir. Let me correct myself there. I suggested the subject; the article came to me, and naturally I presumed Mr. Guard wrote it, but I could not say positively that he did.

The CHAIRMAN. As I recollect, Mr. Howard gave us the impression that you wrote that article, or that some one connected with your paper wrote it.

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you have an interview with Mr. Howard regarding that article?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Then you are the man that Mr. Howard talked to?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. But you did not write the article?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir. As I said just a minute ago, I suggested the subject to Mr. Howard and Mr. Guard, and I imagined Mr. Guard wrote the article, and it came to me from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you ever have any talk with Mr. Howard before you sent out this letter to Congressmen?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You never discussed this letter with him before or since?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you since discussed this letter with any members of the American Farm Bureau Federation?

Mr. CHILTON. Mr. Guard.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you discussed it with any other members of the American Farm Bureau Federation?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir; not in Chicago.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you discussed your coming before this committee with any members of the American Farm Bureau Federation?

Mr. CHILTON. With Mr. Guard, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. But no one else?

Mr. CHILTON. Of the American Farm Bureau Federation?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. CHILTON. With Mr. Reed here, sir, in Washington.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman who brought you to the committee this morning?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir. Mr. Reed was in the office this morning.

The CHAIRMAN. There was some gentleman from the American Farm Bureau Federation who came with you this morning?

Mr. CHILTON. I can not remember his name, but that was not Mr. Reed.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any other questions you want to ask, Mr. Wingo?

Mr. BRAND. I would like to ask a question. What do you mean by saying you suggested the article? What does that include?

Mr. CHILTON. I do not see how I could make it very much plainer.

Mr. BRAND. You say you suggested the subject. Did you suggest that he write that article?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. BRAND. That is what you mean, then?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. BRAND. Then you are the author of it?

Mr. CHILTON. Not necessarily, sir.

Mr. BRAND. Did you suggest what he should say?

Mr. CHILTON. I suggested that he should write a message to the county agents of America, and the article came to me and it was published.

Mr. BRAND. You suggested that he write to all the county agents of the United States without yourself making any sort of an effort to find out whether the charge was true or not?

Mr. FENN. He is referring to the Christmas or New Year's message.

Mr. CHILTON. This is another message that he is referring to at the present time; this is the message that came out in the January issue.

Mr. BRAND. I thought it related to the alleged threat that Mr. Wingo made about withdrawing the appropriation.

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

Mr. MACGREGOR. I am not clear as to how your publication is supported.

Mr. CHILTON. It is supported by advertising, sir.

Mr. MACGREGOR. What is your circulation?

Mr. CHILTON. We publish, on an average, approximately 6,000 monthly on a year's basis.

Mr. MACGREGOR. And distribute them free?

Mr. CHILTON. We practically distribute them free; it has been done that way. It is quite an interesting story in regard to this publication. It was started nine years ago by the board of trade and published as a house publication by the board of trade. In 1920 the Lightner Publishing Co. bought it.

Mr. STRONG. What board of trade?

Mr. CHILTON. The board of trade in Chicago.

Mr. BRAND. Who pays the bills?

Mr. CHILTON. The advertising, sir.

Mr. ECHOLS. Who advertises with you? What class of people?

Mr. CHILTON. Here is a copy of the publication, if you want to see it.

Mr. ECHOLS. You can answer that question and put the answer in the record, because we can not put the whole publication in the record. Who advertises in your paper?

Mr. CHILTON. In our August number we have approximately 150 advertisers. Mr. ECHOLS. What class of advertisers?

Mr. CHILTON. The International Harvester Co., for one; the American Steel & Wire Co. for another; probably 50 or 60 commission live-stock men in Chicago, and 10 or 15 hay men.

Mr. ECHOLS. You say you send out 6,000 copies. To whom do you send those 6,000 copies generally?

Mr. CHILTON. To the agricultural leaders of America, many of whom are the county agents.

Mr. ECHOLS. You say you have 924 contributors?

Mr. CHILTON. Approximately.

Mr. ECHOLS. Who are they?

Mr. CHILTON. Almost solely county agents.

Mr. ECHOLS. Do you know how those county agents are paid?

Mr. CHILTON. They contribute articles, for which we send them the magazine for a year.

Mr. ECHOLS. I mean, who pays their salaries as county agents?

Mr. CHILTON. The Government, sir, pays a part of their salaries, the State pays a part, and the county a part. I imagine you know as much about that as I do.

Mr. MACGREGOR. What dividend do you get on your stock?

Mr. CHILTON. Eight per cent.

Mr. MACGREGOR. Is this a monthly publication?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MACGREGOR. What is the value of your advertising per month?

Mr. CHILTON. For the last six months it will average approximately \$1,600.

Mr. MACGREGOR. \$1,600 an issue?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes; more or less.

Mr. MACGREGOR. And your capital is \$1,000,000?

Mr. CHILTON. That is the maximum capitalization. Whether that has all been sold or not I do not know.

Mr. MACGREGOR. What does your publication cost a month?

Mr. CHILTON. Just what do you mean by that question? What it costs us to publish it?

Mr. MACGREGOR. Yes.

Mr. CHILTON. The expenses will range around \$1,300 or \$1,400.

Mr. MACGREGOR. That is, including everything, all of your overhead?

Mr. CHILTON. That includes everything.

Mr. MACGREGOR. How many men are employed? I mean, how big an establishment have you?

Mr. CHILTON. I act as managing editor. We have an advertising representative, and at the present time we have one girl. We did have two.

Mr. MACGREGOR. That is your whole force?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MACGREGOR. You do not maintain your own printing establishment?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

Mr. MACGREGOR. What is your salary?

Mr. CHILTON. My salary is on a commission basis.

Mr. MacGREGOR. What is the salary of your advertising man?

Mr. CHILTON. He is on a commission basis.

Mr. MacGREGOR. What does your commission amount to?

Mr. CHILTON. Why, that has not been settled for this year as yet.

Mr. MacGREGOR. How much was it last year?

Mr. CHILTON. This is the first year I have worked, sir.

Mr. MacGREGOR. You do not know how much you expect to make?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir; I do not know at the present time, because the year is not up.

Mr. MacGREGOR. Have you had any guaranty?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

Mr. MacGREGOR. How much does your advertising man get?

Mr. CHILTON. He is allowed 25 per cent commission on the advertising he sells.

Mr. MacGREGOR. How much did the man previous to you get a year?

Mr. CHILTON. I have no idea, sir, because Mr. Lightner bought this paper, and I have no record as to what went before me.

Mr. MacGREGOR. You say the total overhead expense is \$1,400?

Mr. CHILTON. Approximately.

Mr. MacGREGOR. And your total income is \$1,600?

Mr. CHILTON. Approximately.

Mr. MacGREGOR. What did you say you had as a guaranty?

Mr. CHILTON. I am allowed \$35 a week, which I draw each month, and I am on a commission basis after this allowance is made.

Mr. MacGREGOR. You must have some idea as to how much your commission amounts to.

Mr. CHILTON. Well, at the present time practically all of our profits are in uncollected bills, which is more or less true of all Chicago concerns at the present time.

Mr. MacGREGOR. How long have you been connected with it?

Mr. CHILTON. One year beginning the 1st of September.

Mr. MacGREGOR. And you have received no commission?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

Mr. MacGREGOR. You have no idea as to how much you are going to receive?

Mr. CHILTON. I have a general idea but not a definite idea at the present time.

Mr. MacGREGOR. What is your general idea?

Mr. CHILTON. Thirty-five per cent of approximately \$3,000.

Mr. MacGREGOR. Has your advertising man received anything?

Mr. CHILTON. He draws his commission each month as the advertising is running and as the accounts are paid.

Mr. MacGREGOR. What are his average receipts?

Mr. CHILTON. His receipts will average around \$225 or \$250.

Mr. MacGREGOR. A month?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. I understood you to say that you depend for your support on your advertising.

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And that your paper circulates free.

Mr. CHILTON. Not altogether, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You have some paid subscribers?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes.

Mr. MacGREGOR. Three hundred and ten.

The CHAIRMAN. Three hundred and ten paid subscribers?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir; more or less.

The CHAIRMAN. You have printed at the bottom of your paper of August, 1921:

"Entered as second-class matter May 20, 1921, at the post office in Chicago, Ill., under the act of March 3, 1879."

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You are entitled to second-class rates, are you?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the law?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you make a statement as to the paid-up subscriptions and ownership of your paper as required by law?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the amount of your paid subscriptions?

Mr. CHILTON. There is a circulation of approximately 934, paid for on the basis of contributing articles, to which the Post Office Department gave very serious consideration, and if it had not been for just that we would not have any second-class mail privileges.

The CHAIRMAN. Who pays the additional subscriptions?

Mr. CHILTON. What additional subscriptions?

The CHAIRMAN. You say you have 900 paid subscriptions.

Mr. CHILTON. Nine hundred and thirty-four that are paid for on the basis of contributing articles.

The CHAIRMAN. That is, the people who write for your paper get copies of your paper?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have 900 of those contributors?

Mr. CHILTON. We have approximately 934, sir; more or less. I do not remember the exact figures, but that is what it was at one time.

The CHAIRMAN. How many subscriptions to your magazine does the American Farm Bureau Federation pay for?

Mr. CHILTON. I have no idea, but very few.

The CHAIRMAN. Do they pay in money for them?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir. The American Farm Bureau Federation as an organization does not pay me a cent for subscriptions, save the individual members who have subscribed.

The CHAIRMAN. You publish their articles, then, as contributors?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I notice you give a great deal of space to them in each of your publications.

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You think it is to your advantage to publish their articles—is that the idea?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir; because the county agents are naturally interested in the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Mr. MacGREGOR. Does the owner of this paper do any other business?

Mr. CHILTON. He has some other papers; yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Are all of the subscriptions paid for annually or on a 50 per cent basis?

Mr. CHILTON. I do not understand the question.

Mr. FENN. I think he said he sent out the paper free.

The CHAIRMAN. He has stated that 310 copies are paid for, and that the total, including the contributors, is 934. How much did you get for those 310 paid subscriptions?

Mr. CHILTON. Including the contributors our total paid subscription is 1,244. We inherited a part of these on a 50 cents a year basis, and some of them renewed on that basis. However, the majority are paid on the \$2 basis, which is the subscription price at the present time.

The CHAIRMAN. You think you are entitled to the second-class privilege?

Mr. CHILTON. It is not for me to say, but the Post Office Department has given us that privilege, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you give any premiums with your subscriptions?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir. We have debated the question, but at the present time we do not, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Just one thing further. You wrote me the other day and said you would be glad to come here, and you wanted to know whether there was any appropriation from which your expenses could be paid. I wrote you that I did not know of any such fund.

Mr. CHILTON. I did not get the letter, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You are paying your own expenses here?

Mr. CHILTON. I presumed that this committee would pay my expenses, sir. I came on your invitation, and I presumed that much, since I did not get your letter. I wrote you I would be able to leave Chicago after the 16th. I did not get your letter, but I came as I indicated I would.

Mr. WINGO. Mr. Chairman, so that this gentleman may not have any future lack of information as to the record, I have before me a copy of the hearing at which Mr. Howard made the statement that has been quoted and upon which this story was based. I quote the following from the article in your issue of August 1:

"One of the members of this committee threatened to withdraw the Smith-Lever appropriation, to which President Howard replied: 'If you want to increase the membership of the American Farm Bureau Federation 100 per

cent in a few weeks, go ahead and do what you threaten to do when you propose to take away Smith-Lever funds.'"

That statement by Mr. Howard was not made in response to any threat that was made in the committee at that time, but when I was questioning him this suggestion was made to him:

"It is a difficult thing to get them in a great many counties to continue the farm demonstration work, because they are resentful of outside interference, resentful of outside dictation, and resentful of outside efforts by one organization to try to use a public agency to build up its private organization, and knowing human nature as I do I can appreciate the natural resentment, even though I may not have approved their judgment."

Then, after Mr. Howard had made his statement and after I had asked him two or three other questions, I asked him this question:

"Mr. Wingo. You miss my suggestion. My suggestion is not that the Federal Government withdraw appropriations under the Smith-Lever Act but withdraw Federal aid to the American Farm Bureau Federation by the State and county agents of the extension forces, Government agents becoming your chief organization workers."

And all through this testimony you will find, if you will read it, that there was no basis for any such suggestion, and, on the contrary, he was told repeatedly that this committee was not interested, as a partisan, in any farm organization, but that we were alarmed on account of the criticism that came to us of friction which would result from the extension forces using the county agents as a private organization. It was charged by the representative of one farm organization that the county agents had attacked and prevented or tried to prevent the organization of a county unit of locals of another farm organization, and Mr. Howard was told that all we were interested in was in keeping harmony among the farmers and securing the cooperation of all of them, and that we were afraid if this friction went on, this discrimination against other organizations, that it would result in some instances in the local members being seized with alarm. So, instead of Mr. Howard having any basis for his suggestion that anybody at this table had made a threat he was told repeatedly that this meeting was not an investigation of him and his organization. He knew how this hearing came about, that the representative of another organization appeared here, and when some one asked him about his salary, etc., he agreed to answer if we would agree to ask all the other representatives of farm organizations the same question.

He was told that no discrimination was shown by this committee against anybody and we questioned all of them as to exactly whom they represented. If you will read the testimony in which the statement of Mr. Howard appeared you will find there was absolutely no ground for Mr. Howard to state that anybody in a statement made before this committee had threatened to withdraw the Smith-Lever aid, and the statement which appears, not in a quotation from Mr. Howard, but in the issue of August, about withdrawing the Smith-Lever appropriation, is absolutely without any foundation.

Mr. CHILTON. I am very glad to know that.

Mr. WINGO. There was no suggestion made either publicly or privately that I know of, either in this committee room or was ever made that would justify any such suggestion or insinuation.

Mr. CHILTON. I will be glad to give the same publicity to your statement as I have given to the other.

Mr. WINGO. I suppose you read the hearings?

Mr. CHILTON. I made every effort to find them, but could not find them in Chicago.

Mr. WINGO. I think a little advice is always dangerous, and if you are a friend of the farmers, I hope you will be very careful before you send out any suggestions that might mislead them into believing that the men upon whom they must depend for practical legislation are unfriendly toward them when there is no basis for such suggestion.

Mr. CHILTON. I had very good reason to believe that this was true, but I will be more than pleased to given your statement the same publicity.

Mr. STRONG. I notice in this article that it starts out with the statement that the Banking and Currency Committee made an investigation of farm organizations. I believe now that has been generally circulated throughout the country?

Mr. CHILTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. STRONG. Do you believe that is true?

Mr. CHILTON. No, sir.

Mr. STRONG. I think you have probably learned from Mr. Wingo's statement that that is not the fact. I want to say to you that this committee has never passed any resolution or taken any action of any kind toward investigating the farm organizations. As Mr. Wingo has informed you, this series of hearings originated because one member of a farm organization came before this committee in support of a bill and asked to be heard and made some statements which some other farm organization asked to answer. From that situation grew up a system of hearings at which we agreed we would hear everybody who wanted to be heard. We did not initiate any investigation and never have tried to conduct it. We have tried to give everybody an opportunity to come in, and to cross-examine them and have tried to get the facts.

I want to say this to you: I am from an agricultural district. This committee since it has been organized this term of Congress has reported out four bills, three of which have been in the interest of agriculture. Mr. Wingo, as long as he has been attacked in this article, it seems to me, has the right to have this said. He is not a member of my party. If I should be reelected to Congress it will be against the wishes of the members of his party and his associates. Yet Mr. Wingo has voted and worked with the agricultural Members in the House and has voted for every bill reported out of this committee in the interest of agriculture.

Mr. CHILTON. I am very glad to know that.

Mr. STRONG. It seems to me that the agricultural newspapers of the country should work with and assist the friends of agriculture in the House, and not attack and misrepresent them, as it seems has been done.

Mr. CHILTON. I agree with you.

Mr. STEAGALL. Every Member of the committee has done the same thing.

The CHAIRMAN. It is not the desire of the committee to keep you here, but members of the committee and the chairman feel that you have cast reflections on the integrity of this committee by making such statements as you have made. This committee is not charged with the responsibility of the Smith-Lever appropriation. That comes through the Agricultural appropriation bill, which bill is not considered by this committee. This investigation was entirely aside from those appropriations. You have learned here this morning that the statement which you made is not true and you have made the statement that you will retract it. I hope so; I hope you will give the Banking and Currency Committee a clean bill of health so far as its actions are concerned. We do not want any inference to go out over the country that the Banking and Currency Committee is antagonistic to the farmers of this country or to the system of county units. As far as the chairman is concerned, he has had an active part in building up the local county agents. In his county in Pennsylvania he was largely responsible for the organization of the first county farm bureau, and for two years he contributed a small portion to the support of the county agents before the appropriations of the State and county were available. I say that simply to prove my interest in the county agents and the work they are doing.

Mr. STEAGALL. Permit me to say all of the legislation that this Congress has enacted for the farmers of the country has been prepared around this table.

The CHAIRMAN. I will say, further, in connection with what I have already said, that this committee has been engaged and probably will be engaged for some time to come in considering legislation looking toward the improvement of agricultural conditions. This committee deals with appropriations in connection with legislation to assist rural credits, and if you will look back over the record of this committee at this session of Congress I am sure you will find it as a fact that this committee has done more in a financial way to encourage agriculture than any other committee of the House.

Mr. STEAGALL. This committee has done all that has been done in a practical way.

Mr. CHILTON. I am surely pleased to know that. When I am editing the magazine I necessarily do not have the time to study what is going on here in Washington. I wish to say that it has been very, very pleasant to be here with you gentlemen, and I will be very glad to assure all the people whom I reach that you people are more than favorable to the extension service. It will be a happy experience for me to be able to say it.

Mr. BRAND. Will you be good enough to send to the members of this committee copies of the magazine containing the article which you contemplate writing?

Mr. CHILTON. I shall be very glad to do so.
(Thereupon the committee adjourned.)

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